



WELCOME

From the Chair, Mary Lowe Good

Science and technology are key to the welfare of our global village. In 2001, we were reminded again of the importance of research to the well-being of people everywhere. Forensic genomics, chemical analysis, and other such pursuits—once arcane to all but specialists—became familiar to a larger audience, as news of efforts to understand tragedy reached us through newspapers, televisions, radios and the Internet. Scientific discussion, confined to Victorian-era parlors since the days of Darwinian debate, claimed a more central location on our cultural stage.

As the public's perception of and appreciation for science and technology changes, the AAAS and its membership are preparing to take on a larger leadership role on behalf of science and its applications.

The new AAAS rallying cry, "Advancing science • Serving society," reflects a desire to build more and better bridges between policymakers, scientists, educators, and the average citizen. After all, the population keeps growing while farmland disappears, and we're living longer than ever before, demanding better shelter, education, health care, and sanitation. Improved quality of life also requires answers to fundamental mysteries—from our cosmic origins, to our social and geographic paths as we peopled the Earth.

In 2001, basic and applied research delivered practical advances and esoteric knowledge alike: Molecule-sized circuits—so small that billions could fit on today's computer chips—were named the year's top scientific achievement, promising computers that translate conversations on the fly, or solve climate-change riddles in a snap. The human genomic sequence revealed the genetic similarity of all people. "Missing" neutrinos were found to morph and go incognito after leaving the sun, thus escaping detection by astronomers. And, the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) officially pinned the blame for global warming on human, rather than natural causes.

As *Science* reported, the September 11 terrorist attacks signaled the start of a "sobering new era" for people everywhere, in all walks of life. For the international scientific and engineering community, shrinking budgets, limited information-sharing, collaboration restrictions, and shifting research priorities are the hallmarks of a changed research climate.

In response, AAAS challenged policymakers to examine the scientific fallout of war, such as new rules on international students at U.S. universities, and to strike a balance between scientific freedom and public safety. As the cloning debate intensified, AAAS took first steps toward clarifying the promise of therapeutic cloning technologies—while condemning efforts to clone human beings.

Also in 2001, the Association's first Court Appointed Scientific Expert testified in an intellectual property case. And, the Association continued to promote sustainable strategies for threatened ecosystems, in regions from Latin America to Africa.

As AAAS looks to the future, it has set as its mission the need to advance science and innovation throughout the world. Key to this quest are seven goals, outlined on these pages, and exemplified by some of the many successful AAAS projects profiled here. It has been my honor to serve AAAS and its membership. I look forward to the many achievements that lie ahead for AAAS.

MARY LOWE GOOD
Chair, AAAS Board